

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 PPT-01 SCCT-01 CU-02

EUR-12 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SP-02 PRS-01 USIA-06 /070 W
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O R 200825Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL KADUNA

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3290

AMCONSUL IBADAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINS, NI

SUBJECT: DETAINED AMERICANS REPORTED RELEASED

REF: KADUNA 191

1. SENIOR POLICE OFFICER ADVISED CONSULATE OFFICER LATE LAST NIGHT THAT KADUNA COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAD ORDERED THAT INTERROGATION OF ARRESTED ABU FACULTY MEMBERS WAS TO BE COMPLETED LAST NIGHT AND DETAINEES SENT HOME TO THEIR FAMILIES. COMMISSIONER WOULD REVIEW REPORTS TODAY AND DETERMINE WHAT FURTHER ACTION, IF ANY, SHOULD BE TAKEN.

2. CONSULATE NOW IN PROCESS DETERMINING WHETHER RELEASE ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT. IN ANY CASE, CONSULATE OFFICER WILL TRAVEL TO ZARIA TODAY TO SEE PERSONS WHO WERE DETAINED AND GET THEIR SIDE OF STORY REPORTED REFTEL. IF THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED, HE WILL INSIST UPON CONSULAR ACCESS. DURING ZARIA VISIT, HE WILL ALSO ATTEMPT SEE KEY AMERICANS TO BRIEF THEM ON ARREST SITUATION AND ASK THEM TO COUNSEL AMERICANS IN AREA TO KEEP LOW PROFILE, ESCHEW TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF LAST WEEKS'S ATTEMPTED COUP (AND NIGERIAN POLITICS GENERALLY) AND TO KEEP CONSULATE INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ZARIA AREA.

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3. WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN WE HAVE HARD NEWS ON STATUS OF
PEOPLE DETAINED YESTERDAY.

4. COMMENT: IF RELEASE OF DETAINEES TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT,
SUSPECT THAT COMBINED ANGLO-AMERICAN EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
AND CONCERN EVENTUALLY CONVINCED SENIOR LEVEL POLICE THAT ARRESTS
MAY NOT HAVE BEEN SOUNDST WAY TO PROCEED IN THIS MATTER.
HOWEVER, IN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE US
AT ALL IF DEPARTATION ORDER SERVED ON SOME OR ALL OF DETAINEES.
BURKE

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